

2021 – 2022 Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons for Delaware

Dove

Sept. 01 – Oct. 04 (29 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Nov. 22 – Jan. 31 (61 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Limit: 15; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Resident Canada Geese

Sept. 01 – Sept. 25 (22 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

No liberal hunting options.

Limit: 15; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Early Teal

Sept. 11 – Sept. 29 (16 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Teal season will be open all day in limited geographic areas. These areas are coastal areas east of Routes 13, 113/113A & 1 from south of the C&D Canal to Lewes.

Limit: 6; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Ducks

Oct. 22 – Nov. 01 (9 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Nov. 22 – Nov. 27 (6 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Dec. 10 – Jan. 31 (45 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Limit: 6 (except coots & mergansers), which may include no more than 2 mallards (1 hen), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 1 scaup, 2 redheads, 4 scoters, 4 eider, 4 long-tailed ducks, 2 hooded mergansers, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. The season on harlequin ducks remains closed. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Alternate 1 (Staff)

Oct. 01 – Oct. 11 (9 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Nov. 22 – Nov. 27 (6 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Dec. 10 – Jan. 31 (45 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Alternate 2 (Staff)

Oct. 30 – Nov. 11 (11 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Nov. 22 – Nov. 27 (6 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Dec. 11 – Jan. 29 (43 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Youth Hunt

Oct. 2, 16, or 23 2021 and Feb. 05, 2022 ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Bag may include ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, Canada geese, snow geese, brant, and tundra swan (Feb. 5 only). Standard limits, possessions, and special permit requirements apply.

Canada Geese (Migratory)

Nov. 24 – Nov. 27 (4 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Dec. 18 – Jan. 17 (26 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Limit: 1; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Snow Goose

Oct. 01 – Jan. 31 and Feb. 05 (106 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Limit: 25; no possession limit.

*Bombay Hook - No dates given yet. *

Snow Goose Conservation Order

Feb. 01 – Feb. 04 ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

Feb. 07 – Apr. 08 ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

Unplugged shotguns and electronic calls may be used to harvest snow geese

Limit and possession: None.

Brant

Nov. 22 – Nov. 27 (6 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Dec. 11 – Jan. 31 (44 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Limit: 2; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Coots & Mergansers

Coots

Same season dates as ducks
Limit: 15; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Mergansers

Same season dates as ducks
Limit: 5, of which, no more than 2 may be hooded. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Rails, Gallinules and Moorhens

King, Clapper

Sept. 04 – Nov. 24 (70 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Limit: 10; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Sora, Virginia

Sept. 04 – Nov. 24 (70 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Limit: 25; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Gallinules, Moorhens

Sept. 04 – Nov. 24 (70 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Limit: 15; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Woodcock

Nov. 22 – Nov. 27 (6 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Dec. 3 – Jan. 17 (39 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Limit: 3; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Snipe

Sept. 10 – Nov. 27 (68 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Dec. 3 – Jan. 17 (39 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Limit: 8; the possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Sea Ducks

Nov. 23 – Jan. 31 (60 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Within the designated Special Sea Duck Zone (not less than 800 yards seaward of Delaware Bay shore between Port Mahon/Elbow Cross Navigation Light and the Atlantic Ocean at the Delaware-Maryland line).
Limit: 5, which may not exceed 4 scoters, 4 eiders, or 4 long-tailed ducks. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

Tundra Swan (By Special Permit Only)

Nov. 11 – Jan 31 (70 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
67 Permits
Limit and possession: 1 per season

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING SEASONS BASED ON 2012 HUNTER SURVEY

1. Within **Established** Federal Guidelines for splits and season dates.
2. Maximize Saturdays and Holidays.
3. Overlap duck and goose seasons.
4. Minimize conflicts with November deer season and other firearms deer seasons.
5. Run season dates as late as possible.